

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:388
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
RECOMMENDATIONS OF ICAR
Dhumal Prof. Prem Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has recommended the farmers to use hybrid varieties of seeds which give more production;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is compelled to depend upon the private sector due to faulty extension services as well as the inability of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other public sector organization to reach effectively to the farmers;
- (c) if so, whether certain technological processes stop the natural growth of the seed;
- (d) whether the hybrid varieties of seed do not result in production of exactly alike variety of seed and farmers have to go to seed breeders to get new seeds every year; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

- (a) Yes, Sir. In addition to high yielding varieties, hybrids are also developed and recommended for cultivation to get more crop yields.
- (b) No, Sir. The main agriculture extension service is operated by the State Governments for large scale transfer of agriculture technology to the farmers. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has sanctioned a network of 558 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in the country aiming at technology assessment, refinement and demonstration of the technology/products. During the last one year, these KVKs organized 7818 Front-line Demonstrations (FLD) on farmers field using hybrids of oilseeds, cereals, fodder crops, vegetable crops and other crops such as cotton, papaya, coconut and cashew nut.

Besides above, frontline demonstrations on different crops are also being conducted in All India Coordinated Project of respective crops for popularizing newly released high yielding varieties of different crops. The Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has also been distributing minikits of high yielding varieties for popularizing varieties in different states. Breeder seed production is the mandate of ICAR which is being produced through different centers of ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities. It is being supplied to National Seed Corporation, State Farm Seed Corporation of India, State Seed Corporations, State Govt. Departments and Private Seed Companies etc. for producing foundation seed then certified seed, which is supplied to the farmers. The Private Seed Companies are mostly involved in producing low volume high value hybrid seed where as public sector organizations are producing high volume low value quality seed of self pollinated crops as well as hybrid.

- (c) No, Sir.

(d) & (e): It is known that the hybrid give the best performance in its 1st generation and latter on it segregates. Hence the next generation does not produce the same yield and as such farmers have to purchase hybrid seeds every year.